

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Patel for the analysis set forth in the February 18, 2005 Office Action. Applicants' attorney also thanks Examiner Patel for the time and courtesy he extended in a telephone interview conducted May 10, 2005.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the February 18 Office Action, the Examiner repeated his rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by the Morris reference (US 3,144,162).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Morris reference uses principles of operation that differ from the present invention. By this amendment, applicants have more clearly distinguished the claimed invention in the wording of the Claim.

The Morris reference takes pressure from pressure vessel 10 and channels it into chamber 11 (see column 2, line 21). This pressure acts upon anti-extrusion ring 19 as indicated by arrows 26 and 27 of Figure 3 (see column 2, line 23-42). As summarized in column 2 at line 30, "Thus, the pressure in the vessel maintains the anti-extrusion ring in contact with its mating surfaces"

In contrast, the backing ring of the present invention is shielded from internal pressure within the body by the peripheral seal. This aspect of the present invention has been inserted into Claim 1 in order to further distinguish the claimed invention over the Morris reference.

The foregoing amendment is believed to place the application in immediate condition for allowance, and thus is proper for entry after final. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration of the application, entry of the amendment, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Kevan L. Morgan
Registration No. 42,015
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1712

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to **Mail Stop AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: May 11, 2005



KLM:lpz